



Hofacket & Kretek, LLC

NEW APPLICATION

ORIGINAL



0000109268

March 17, 2010

E-01851A-

Docket Control  
Utilities Division  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. E-01851A-10-0104

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find enclosed an original and fourteen (14) copies of Columbus Electric Cooperative's Bill Estimation Policy, designated as Schedule ABEM, as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

This tariff is being submitted for filing pursuant to R14-2-212(F)(1). I would appreciate if you would mail a conformed copy of the tariff back to me after it has been filed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Sincerely,

HOFACKET & KRETEK, LLC

By:   
Charles C. Kretek

Enclosures

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED  
MAR 23 2010

DOCKETED BY 

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DOCKET CONTROL

**COLUMBUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**ELECTRIC CONSUMER RATE  
SCHEDULE ABEM  
STANDARD OFFER TARIFF**

**BILL ESTIMATION METHODOLOGIES**

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**Application**

The Estimation Methodologies Rate (BEM) is applicable for the purposed of bill estimation for all tariffs in the event a valid meter reading cannot be acquired. The Cooperative will make every reasonable attempt to secure an accurate reading of the meter. The Cooperative will make special effort to secure accurate reading of the meters for accounts with demand readings.

This rate is not applicable to resale or standby services.

**Conditions for Estimated Bills**

Estimate bills will be issued only under the following conditions.

- A. Labor Shortages or work stoppages beyond the control of the Cooperative.
- B. Severe weather conditions, emergencies or other causes beyond the Cooperative's control which prevent the Cooperative from reading the meter;
- C. Circumstances that make it dangerous or impossible to read the meter, including but not limited to: locked gates, blocked access to meters, threatening or abusive conduct of customers, vicious or dangerous animals;
- D. Failure of a customer who reads his own meter to deliver his meter reading to the Cooperative in accordance with the requirements of the Cooperative billing cycle;
- E. To facilitate timely billing for customers using load profile.

**Notice of Estimation**

Each bill based on estimated usage will indicate that it is an estimated bill.

## SCHEDULE ABEM

### Estimation Procedures

Columbus Electric currently utilizes a customer information system (CIS) and/or billing personnel for billing, bill calculations and bill estimations.

- A. Detailed descriptions of estimation procedures for each of the conditions are numbered 1-12 below include but are not limited to:

1	A KWH estimate with a least one year of history for the same customer at the same premise or new customer with at least one year of premise history	Estimate using the kwh, same month one year prior and/or the average usage of the prior three months.
2	A KWH estimate with less than 12 months history for the same customer at the same premise.	Estimate using the average kwh of the prior three months.
3	A KWH estimate with less than 12 month's history for a new customer but with history on the premise.	Estimate using the average of the prior three months or if less than three months average the information the system has available.
4	A KWH estimate with no prior consumption.	The system will not estimate.
5	A KW estimate with at least one year of history for the same premise or new customer with one year of premise history.	Estimate using the kw same month one year prior and/or the average of the prior three months.
6	A KW estimate with less than 12 months' history for the new customer at same premise.	Calculate the estimate using the kw of the preceding month from the same premise.
7	A kw estimate with less than 12 months' history for the same customer at the same premise.	Calculate the estimate using the kw of the preceding month.
8	A kw estimate with no prior consumption history.	Do not estimate, meter technician is dispatched to obtain a valid read.
9	A Time-of-Use estimate with at least one year of history for the same customer at same premise	Time of Use has two readings, "on-peak" and "off-peak". Calculate the estimate using the "on-peak" and "off-peak" kwh reads, same month one year prior and/or the average usage of the prior three months.
10	A Time-of-Use estimate with less than 12 months' history for the same customer at the same premise.	Time of Use has two readings, "on-peak" and "off-peak". Calculate the estimate using the "on-peak" and "off-peak" kwh reads, using the average of prior three months.
11	A Time-of-Use estimate with less than 12 months' history for a new customer but with history on the premise.	Time of Use has two readings, "on-peak" and "off-peak". Calculate the estimate using the "on-peak" and "off-peak" kwh reads, using the average of prior three months or average the information the system has available.
12	A Time-of-Use estimate with no prior consumption history for a new customer at new premise.	Bill the fixed monthly customer charge plus applicable taxes only. The kwh will be billed with the next valid read in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Code.

## SCHEDULE ABEM

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**B. Variance in estimation methods for differing conditions.**

Examples of differing causes for estimation include, but are not limited to: tampering, energy diversion damaged or destroyed meter, partial meter failure and meter reading equipment failure.

In the event the meter has been tampered with or destroyed, or energy diversion has occurred, the methods referred to in item A. above still apply, prorating the usage if the estimation period is less than a full billing cycle. Example;

**Tampering and/or Energy Diversion**

A valid read was obtained on October 1, Year Two. A tampering or energy diversion is discovered on October 15<sup>th</sup> the meter has the same reading from October 1, Year Two. An investigation reveals the service is active and electricity is being consumed. The same service history indicated a kwh usage of 900 kwh for the month of October Year One. A manual estimate will prorate based upon a daily average of the 900 kwh divided by the number of days in the history record the same month (31) for a total of 29 kwh per day times the number of days tampered (15) for a final estimate of 435 kwh.

If the service does not have 12 month history the same formula is used with the past three month average.

In the event the investigation reveals evidence that the tampering or energy diversion occurred for a period exceeding one month, the Cooperative will use the applicable estimation procedure to the point in time that the tampering or energy diversion may be definitely fixed, or 12 months.

**Meter Damaged/Destroyed**

The same estimation procedure as described in item A. above is used if it is determined that the damage or destruction is caused by the consumer to the point in time that the damage or destruction may be definitely fixed or 12 months.

In the event the damage or destruction is otherwise caused, the estimation procedure is the same as described in item A. above, but the customer responsibility is limited to 3 months for residential customers and 6 months for non-residential customers.

**Partial Meter Failure:**

If a meter is found to be deficient in recording any portion of the actual usage, the kw and kwh are estimated based on the percentage of deficiency for a period limited to 3 months for residential customers and 6 months for non-residential customers.

**C. Conditions when estimations are calculated by the CIS system.**

The CIS system calculates the estimate when the meter of a service does not record a valid read for the normal billing cycle for any reason listed under "Conditions for Estimated Bills" above.

## SCHEDULE ABEM

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D. Conditions when estimations are made manually

The manual estimate is made by CEC personnel when there is a partial meter failure, weather related differences (previous years usage is reflective of unseasonable or greatly varied temperature), or there is tampering, or a damaged meter/destroyed meter for less than the normal billing cycle and the bill must be prorated.

E. Procedures to minimize the need for using estimated data.

If feasible, the meter reader is asked to return to the service for a valid read. If the service has access problems an Offsite Meter Reading (OMR) or Automated Meter Reading (AMR) device may be installed. However, the Cooperative shall have the right of safe ingress to and egress from the customer's premises at all reasonable hours for any purpose reasonably connected with property use in furnishing service and the exercise to any and all rights secured to it by law or the Arizona Corporation Commission.

F. Procedures for estimating first and final bills.

First and final bills are not estimated unless the meter fails. If the reading is not recorded for the first bill, the first bill is issued for the fixed monthly charges plus applicable taxes. The total kwh will be billed on the first valid read. The final bill is not issued until such time a valid read is secured.

G. Procedures for estimating using customer specific data.

If there is no service history available on which to base an estimate, the kwh and/or kw estimate is based on the connected equipment operating characteristics.